(c) According to the details furnished by the Reserve Bank of India in respect of FERA companies, profits/dividends repatriated by top ten companies in the last five years on the basis of profits repatriated by them in 1990-91 is given in the Annexure. (See Appendix CLXJ.V, Annexure No. 26).

Relaxation of Tourist Baggage Rules

1206. SHRI P. UPENDRA: WiU the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Customs Department has recently, relaxed and simplified the tourist baggage rules; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tourist Baggage Rules, 1978 have been amended with effect from 19-06-1992 so as to permit the import of Video Camera/Camcorder, Colour Television (not exceeding 15 cm. in size), Compact Disc. Player, Laptop Computer and electronic diary also temporarily without payment of duty provided that these items are for the personal use of the tourist and are re-exported by him on his leaving India for a foreign destination.

Transfer of SC/ST Officers in Reserve Bank of India

1207. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact* that some SC/ST grade 'A' Staff Officers were, recently, transferred from Chandigarh to Calcutta branch of Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, whether the tenure fixed by Reserve Bank of India for transfers have not been adhered in these transfers;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a), to (d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that only one Scheduled Caste Staff Officer Grade 'A' has been transferred from Chandigarh to Calcutta in May 1992 and in his case tenure fixed for transfer of such officers has been adhered to. The officer had filed a Writ Petition in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh. The Court directed the Bank to take a decision on his representation before implementing the transfer order and disposed of the petition. Accordingly, the Bank examined his representation and did not accede to his request to stay the transfer. The officer again brought a stay order from the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh which was subsequently got vacated by the Bank. The petition is, however, still pending and the matter is *sub-judice.*

Misuse of Gold allotted to Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturers

1208. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of gold allotted to various ayurvedic medicine manufacturers during the past three years;

(b) what is the firm-wise breakup thereof;

(c) whether Government have been receiving complaints of this controlled price gold being misused and sold in the black market;

(d) if so, what action has been initiated against the erring firms; and

(e) what action is proposed to be taken to stop its malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): No amount of gold. is allotted to ayurvedic medicine manufacturers out of the Government -stocks of gold.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Misuse of Duty Exemption Certificate by Delhi based firm

1209. SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi based firm was caught recently, for misusing the Duty Exemption Entitle ment Certificate Scheme meant to en courage exports by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence;

(b) if so ,what are the details of the case; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had seized 175 metric tonnes of zinc ingots valued at over Rs. 1 crore on 7-12-1991. Show cause notices have been issued to two firms, namely, M/s. Rajendar Brothers and M/s. N. S. Overseas and five other persons for misusing the Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate Scheme with regard to duty free import of zinc ingots during 1991.

Conditional Loan to Cooperative Snsrar Factories by Financial Institutions

1210. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maha rashtra have approached the Central Government for prevailing upon the Central Financial Institutions while sanctioning loans to Cooperative Sugar Factories, for not insisting on execu tion of comprehensive default gua rantee and undertaking from the State Government for timely payment of loan instalments and interest, making good the cash losses and shortfall if any, in the financing of project till the loans are repaid in full by the Cooperative Sugar Factories; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is considered particularly vital by the financial institutions to seek such guarantees from the State Government in respect of cooperative sugar factories on account of the following reasons:

(i) The State Government plays the role of a dominant promoter and has an effective say in the management of cooperative sugar units. In that capacity it is essential for the State Government to assure the institutions that it would make good the cash losses as well as the deficit in resources for completion of the project. The stipulation of such undertakings, which has hitherto been furnished by the Maharashtra Government as well as all other State Governments is considered essential for ensuring the operational and financial viability of 'such projects. In the case of private sector projects as well, the financial institutions have been obtaining similar undertaking from promoters.

(ii) The viability of new sugar projects is being determined based on the availability of the Central Government incentives which are required to be utilised exclusively